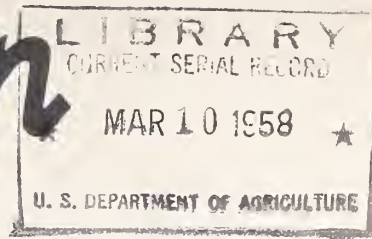


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Foreign



CROPS AND MARKETS

FOR RELEASE MONDAY, MARCH 10, 1958

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VENEZUELA IMPORTS CATTLE FROM CUBA

Venezuela has imported 500 head of crossbred (part Brahman) cattle from Cuba. The February shipment was the first under Venezuela's new 5-year beef cattle development plan. Valued at \$315,000, the cattle are to be used in building up Venezuela's livestock industry (see Foreign Crops and Markets, March 3, 1958).

EGYPTIAN TOBACCO IMPORTS UP 10 PERCENT

Egypt's imports of unmanufactured tobacco during the first 6 months of 1957, totaling 13.0 million pounds, were up about 10 percent from the January-June 1956 level of 11.9 million. Takings from all sources except Turkey and the U.S.S.R. increased.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: Egypt, imports by country of origin, January-June 1956 and 1957 with percent change

Country of origin	January-June 1956	January-June 1957	Percent change from January-June 1956
	1,000 <u>pounds</u>	1,000 <u>pounds</u>	<u>Percent</u>
United States.....	3,263	4,592	+ 40.7
Turkey.....	2,299	1,784	- 22.4
Greece.....	1,462	1,530	+ 4.7
China, Mainland.....	653	796	+ 21.9
Bulgaria.....	15	564	---
India.....	1,160	1,336	+ 15.2
U.S.S.R.....	697	467	- 33.0
Other.....	2,305	1,936	- 16.0
Total.....	11,854	13,005	+ 9.7

Imports from the United States amounted to 4.6 million pounds, 1.3 million larger than January-June 1956 imports. Leaf takings from India and Communist China were 15 and 22 percent above the January-June 1956 levels of 1.2 and .7 million pounds, respectively. Combined imports of oriental tobaccos were slightly below imports of 4.5 million pounds last year, despite increased takings from Greece and Bulgaria.

SWEDEN TO RAISE CIGARETTE PRICES

Swedish retail prices of cigarettes reportedly will soon go up 1.5 ore per piece (the equivalent of 5.8 U.S. cents per pack of 20). The price of "Bill", the leading brand and an American blended-type, will increase from the equivalent of 46.3 to 52.1 U.S. cents per pack.

Cigarette sales in calendar 1957 totaled 5.9 billion pieces, 3.3 percent more than 1956 sales of 5.7 billion. Sales of all other tobacco products, except cigarillos, are reported to have declined from the previous year's level.

NEW CIGARETTE FACTORY IN SURINAM

A new cigarette factory being built in Paramaribo, Surinam, by the Surinam-American Tobacco Company plans to start operating in mid-1958.

Quotas and high import duties on cigarettes protect local manufacturers against open competition. The monthly import quota for U. S. cigarettes is now 400,000 pieces. The duty on cigarettes is equivalent to 18.9 U. S. cents per pack of 20 plus 50 percent of the c.i.f. value and another 1 percent of the c.i.f. value as a statistics tax. American brands retail for 45.9 U. S. cents per pack.

Local cigarette manufacturers get all their raw materials from the United States. It is reported that the new firm, will also purchase its tobacco in the United States. It will use the brand name "Star" for its cigarettes and "Blaka Tee" for its packaged tobacco. Cigarettes will be in packs of 20 and will be somewhat similar in taste to the American blend. The proposed retail price of "Star" is between 21.6 and 27.0 U. S. cents per pack.

DUTCH SMOKING MORE
CIGARETTES AND CIGARS

Dutch sales of cigarettes, cigars, and cigarillos continued upward through 1957. Cigarette consumption, totaling 13.5 billion pieces, was about 2 percent larger than the 1956 level of 13.2 billion. Sales of cigars and cigarillos amounted to 968 and 195 million pieces, compared with the preceding year's levels of 942 and 151 million, respectively. Consumption of other products was 18.0 million pounds, about .5 percent below the previous year.

RECORD FLUE-CURED CROP EXPECTED
IN RHODESIAS-NYASALAND

The Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland is expected to have a record flue-cured tobacco crop of 180 million pounds in 1958, and a total crop of 212 million pounds. Flue-cured production was 178 million pounds in 1956. Weather was hot and dry early in the season, but gave way to good rains and cooler weather in December. The tobacco crop therefore prospered; the average yield may reach 860 pounds per acre.

The large 1956 crop overloaded handling and curing facilities, creating selling problems which caused a break in flue-cured prices. Although the 1958 crop is larger, facilities have been expanded, and quality of the crop is relatively good, judging from present indications.

The Rhodesian Tobacco Marketing Board has scheduled sales of North-Western and Southern Rhodesian flue-cured to start on March 11. Sales of North-Eastern flue-cured will start on May 14.

AEGEAN LEAF TOBACCO
PRICES STRONG

Almost all the 1957 Aegean unmanipulated tobacco crop in Turkey was sold in the first week of sales on the planter's market, which opened on January 27. Sales through February 3 amounted to 165.8 million pounds out of an estimated crop of 167.5 million.

U. S. companies purchased only 9.3 million pounds of unmanipulated leaf, in contrast to 12.0 million last year. Prices paid by U. S. companies averaged about 38 U.S. cents per pound, compared with about 37 U.S. cents last year. The Turkish Monopoly bought about 50 million pounds, or about 5 million less than a year ago. The rest of the leaf was bought by merchants who will manipulate it for fall export sale. The average estimated price for good-quality leaf was 35 U.S. cents per pound, but prices ranged from 20 to 47 U.S. cents.

IRAN BUILDING NEW DATE PROCESSING PLANT

A new Iranian date-processing plant is nearing completion in Khorramshahr. The new plant, expected to handle part of the 1958 crop, will operate on a custom basis.

The 1957 Iranian date crop is estimated at 116,000 short tons, or 19 percent less than the 143,000-ton production of 1956. The 1955 pack was 110,000 tons. No stocks of old-crop dates were carried over into the 1957 season; nor are any carryover stocks from the 1957 crop expected.

DATES: Iran, exports by destination, August 23, 1956, to April 20, 1957

Country of destination	Aug. 23, 1956-April 20, 1957
	<u>Short tons</u>
Canada.....	1,123
Germany, West.....	1,123
India.....	1,353
Indonesia.....	1,488
Kuwait.....	6,284
Netherlands.....	121
Oman.....	13,785
United Kingdom.....	768
United States.....	2,416
U.S.S.R.....	4,058
Other countries.....	171
Total.....	<u>32,690</u>

Exports for all of 1956-57 are estimated at 37,500 tons. The 1957-58 exports are expected to total about 39,000 tons. All exportable supplies suitable for the Western countries have already been exported or contracted for.

IRELAND EXTENDS APPLE IMPORT PERIOD

Ireland has extended the period for limited imports of apples from April 1 to June 15. Last year the control period was extended only to May 1. The longer period may slightly increase imports of U. S. apples. The non-preferential duty is one penny per pound. Both apples and onions are considered necessities instead of luxuries.

SPANISH RAISIN GROWERS IN
COST-PRICE SQUEEZE

Spain's raisin industry is experiencing a crisis that may affect future production trends. Prices for labor and materials have more than doubled since 1947 while growers' returns have reportedly declined nearly 20 percent.

Export raisin sales in the Malaga area (one of the 2 producing areas) are controlled by the Fruit and Vegetable Syndicate, though growers and traders have free access to the domestic market. Prices paid growers have been ranging between 6.2 and 7.8 cents per pound. The Syndicate is reported to be selling raisins to exporters under the following schedule:

Extras	15.9 cents per pound
Imperials	14.5 " " "
Royals	13.0 " " "

Representative prices received by exporters are:

Imperials (rectangular box)	30.4 cents per pound
Royals (rectangular box)	29.7 cents per pound
Imperials (triangular box)	33.1 " " "
Royals (triangular box)	32.4 " " "
Imperials Racimales	23.2 " " "
Royals Racimales	21.2 " " "

The 1957 Spanish raisin pack is estimated as 14,300 short tons--13 percent less than the 16,500-ton production of the previous year, but 19 percent above the 5-year average for 1950-54. Raisin stocks at the close of December 1957 were estimated to be 5,500 short tons; these, however, were expected to be sold before the close of the season.

During the first 4 months of the 1957-58 marketing season, commencing September 1, Spanish raisin exports totaled 5,523 tons. Finland, largest single purchaser, took 1,392 tons, or about one-quarter of all exports during the period.

In the 1956-57 season, exports amounted to 7,775 short tons. Algeria led in purchases, with imports of 1,363 tons. Finland was second, with takings of 1,153 tons. About 5,500 tons were exported from the Denia producing area, and the balance from Malaga.

SPANISH TABLE OLIVE PRODUCTION INCREASES

Spain's table olive production during 1957 is estimated at 46,100 short tons. This is 12 percent greater than 1956 production of 41,200 tons and about 7 percent above the 1950-54 average of 43,200 tons. Spain is the world's largest producer of table olives.

The quality of this season's crop is only "acceptable," in contrast to the exceptionally good quality of the 1956-57 crop. There is also a shortage of large sizes of Queens (Gordals) and Manzanillas this season and an unusually large proportion of small sizes. Dacus fly damage, however, was not extensive this season.

Three factors are said to have contributed to the larger 1957 production: (1) olive trees have almost recovered from the 1956 freeze, (2) restrictions on the varieties which may be exported as table olives were removed during 1957-58 by a government order which also set aside the price-controlling powers of the Seville Table Olive Commission, and (3) the 6-peseta export tax was abolished.

Spain exports about 80 percent of its annual olive production. Olive exports during 1956-57 amounted to 33,249 short tons; for 1957-58 they are forecast at 38,800 tons. Spain is the principal supplier of U. S. olive imports. Exports to all destinations during the 1956-57 season, by type, were:

Gordal, whole	5,306	short tons	Azofairon (undersized	
Gordal, stuffed	4,696	" "	Queens)	86 short tons
Manzanilla, whole	902	" "	Gordal 2, whole	451 " "
Manzanilla, stuffed	18,848	" "	Broken	2,348 " "
Pitless	612	" "	Total	33,249 short tons

Prices this season are substantially below those of 1956-57. Last season, exports brought \$8 to \$10 per fanega (96.8 pounds) more than the official minimum export prices then in effect. Minimum export prices for 1957-58 are \$1 to \$4 lower than in 1956-57, and sales prices this season are not above the minimum levels.

On November 21, 1957, the Director-General of Foreign Trade established the following export prices for the 1957-58 season:

<u>Type of olive</u>	<u>Dollars per gallon</u>
Gordal 1, whole	1.25
Gordal 2, "	1.12
Gordal, stuffed with pimento	1.88
Manzanilla, 1, whole, 1st assortment	1.12
Manzanilla, 1, whole, 2nd assortment	1.00
Manzanilla, 1, stuffed with pimento 1st assortment	1.75
Manzanilla, 1, stuffed with pimento 2nd assortment	1.62

INDIA TO SELL COFFEE TO EAST GERMANY

The Indian Coffee Board is reported to be selling 2,000 tons (33,333 bags) of coffee this year to East Germany. Sales will be made against supplies of potash and rock-phosphate and paid on rupee account. The transaction aims to help India's coffee industry meet fertilizer needs. India's total coffee export quota from the 1957-58 crop is 131,717 bags but may be increased if crop prospects improve.

SURINAM CROPS HURT BY WEATHER IN 1957

An unusual combination of weather conditions in Surinam during 1957 severely curtailed agricultural supplies and adversely affected the entire economy.

Surinam ordinarily has a short dry season, a long rainy season, and a long dry season. In 1957 the dry seasons were much longer and the rainy season much shorter than normal. These three weather factors individually are not unusual and do not directly cause much damage to agriculture, but the combination of the three in the same year caused great agricultural loss. The last time this combination occurred was in 1905.

Rice, the most important commercial crop, was heavily damaged. Milled rice production in 1957 was 23 percent below the 94 million pounds produced in 1956. Surinam's annual rice consumption is over 61 million pounds, and to satisfy local requirements 4.4 million pounds were imported in January. It is expected that another 4.4 million pounds must be bought before the next crop is harvested in September. In 1956 Surinam exported 32.4 million pounds of rice: to the Netherlands (21.2), Martinique (3.6), Guadeloupe (0.2), Netherlands Antilles (1.8), Canada (1.6), the Bahamas (1.5), West Germany (1.1), French Guiana (0.9), French Oceania (0.2), Belgium (0.2), and the Virgin Islands (0.02). These countries will have to obtain supplies elsewhere this year.

Other crops and nursery stock also were badly hit. Truck gardens lost about 60 percent of their produce. The cattle industry, too, suffered from the drought. Fish supplies were 30 percent less than normal in the first 10 months of the year.

The Surinam government is giving \$540,000 worth of aid to farmers and fishermen who were hit hardest. This is in the form of loans, free supplies of rice seed, other seed, plant material, fertilizer, and insecticides, and deferment of payments on land and other taxes. This assistance, however, will add considerably to the 1958 budget at a time when bauxite revenues are not expected to increase and agricultural exports are declining. Also, consumers will continue to feel the increased cost of living, which was up 5 percent in the third quarter of 1957.

INDIA HARVESTING BUMPER CASHEW CROP

The 1958 Indian cashew crop, including production from Portuguese Goa, is forecast at 77,000 short tons, or about 6,000 tons more than the harvest in 1957. The present harvest is reported to be a month early, with some of the crop already in the hands of processors. Growing conditions have been favorable and quality is expected to be above average.

Imports of raw cashews from Portuguese and British East Africa during 1957 were record-large, amounting to more than 103,000 short tons. Quality of the African nuts, however, was below normal and losses from bad nuts ran as high as 20 percent in some shipments. The disagreement between shippers and exporters over tolerances permitted in African shipments has been largely resolved, making possible a normal flow of imports during 1958.

CASHEWS, IN-SHELL: India, supply and distribution, annual 1956, 1957, and forecast 1958 including estimate for Portuguese Goa

Item	1956	1957	1958
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Opening stocks.....	7,900	1,000	4,000
Production.....	78,000	71,000	77,000
Imports (East Africa).....	77,700	103,000	95,000
Total.....	163,600	175,000	176,000
Domestic consumption.....	9,600	12,400	13,000
Exports.....	152,800	149,300	149,000
End stocks.....	1,200	1/ 13,300	14,000
1/ About 9,300 tons spoilage incurred in imports.			

Exports of cashew kernels during the 1957 marketing season according to destinations were:

Country of destination	50-pound cases (thousands)
Australia.....	35
Canada.....	50
Communist countries.....	100
United Kingdom.....	120
Other countries.....	35
United States.....	1,060
Total exports.....	1,400

Exports to the United States in 1958 are expected to be at 1957 levels. Average price for Indian raw cashews the past season was \$145 per ton, while African raw nuts averaged \$141 per ton. Packed kernels averaged 48 cents per pound, c. & f. New York for the same period.

BEAN PRODUCTION UP IN EL SALVADOR

El Salvador's 1957 bean harvest completed in December was estimated at 530,000 bags--up about 25,000 bags from last year. Carryover stocks held by the Grain Stabilization Board were an estimated 30,000 bags.

This supply will not meet the season's requirements, and imports in 1958 may total as much as 165,000 bags. Because of consumer preferences and price, most of the imports probably will be Red and Black beans from nearby countries. Honduras and Nicaragua usually produce beans for export, and a few weeks ago Honduras reported 30,000 bags available for export (see Foreign Crops and Markets, February 10).

Red beans, preferred in all of Central America, are about the size of U.S. Small Reds but have a glossy seed coat and a light purple cast. Both the Red and Black beans reportedly are softer and cook easier than U.S. Small Red and Black beans.

MEXICO EASES TALLOW RESTRICTIONS

The Mexican Government has issued import licenses for 27.6 million pounds of inedible tallow. The tallow must be imported by June 30, 1958. U. S. exports of tallow to Mexico were 40 million pounds in 1957, a drop of 32 percent from exports of 59 million in 1956.

ECUADORAN EXPORTS AT RECORD LEVEL IN 1957

Preliminary trade statistics indicate that the value of Ecuadoran exports during 1957 was about \$95 million, nearly equal to record exports of 1954. Exports in 1956 were valued at \$92.9 million.

Exports of bananas and coffee were heavy, although their export values were slightly less than 1956 totals. A sharp increase in rice exports and better prices for cacao appear to have counterbalanced the decrease in exchange collected from banana exports.

Preliminary data indicate that the volume of 1957 banana exports set a new record in Ecuadoran trade. Exports of 26.4 million stems were 3.4 million greater than the 1956 volume and 2.7 million larger than the previous record in 1955. While shipments to the United States seem to be stabilized at an average of 16 million stems yearly, exports to Europe increased substantially--8.79 million stems in 1957, compared with 6.05 million in 1956. The value of banana exports, at \$34.0 million, was greater than that of any other commodity. Values of other principal exports were: coffee \$29.1 million, cacao \$18.0 million, and rice \$4.8 million.

The dollar value of 1957 imports was about \$92.5 million--about \$2.4 million less than the value of exports.

WEST GERMAN HOG
NUMBERS RISE

West German hog numbers (December 3, 1957) reached a new record of 15,341,000 head. This was a 6-percent increase over 1956 numbers. Breeding sow numbers rose 9 percent, and the number of young pigs (under 6 months) increased 7 percent, indicating a continued numbers increase in 1958.

West German pork production will be large in 1958, especially during the first half of the year. U. S. producers can thus expect more competition in West Germany from West German lard and pork variety meats. Germany imported 25.5 million pounds of U. S. variety meats in 1957, compared with 27 million in 1956.

West German hog numbers have risen steadily from a postwar low of about 7 million in 1946 to almost 14 million in December 1951. Since then, hog numbers have gone through a cycle, with a low of about 12 million in December 1953 and a high of 14.5 million in December 1955. Hog numbers are now on the upward swing of a new cycle, having risen from the 1956 low. Although present heavy hog production and low prices would indicate this cycle has about reached its peak, large sow numbers indicate that there will not be a downswing in 1958.

West German cattle numbers increased slightly in 1957. The largest increase was in steers and cows, pointing to a rise in beef production during 1958. Horse, sheep, and goat numbers continued their steady decline.

LIVESTOCK NUMBERS: West Germany 1/, December 3, 1953-57,
with change from previous year.

Year	Cattle		Hogs		Sheep		Goats		Horses	
	Number	Change	Number	Change	Number	Change	Number	Change	Number	Change
	: 1,000	: Percent	: 1,000	: Percent	: 1,000	: Percent	: 1,000	: Percent	: 1,000	: Percent
1953.....	11,641	-	12,435	-4	1,352	-12	1,024	-11	1,271	-7
1954.....	11,521	-1	14,525	+17	1,226	-9	891	-13	1,172	-8
1955.....	11,552	-	14,593	-	1,188	-3	766	-14	1,098	-6
1956.....	11,815	+2	14,408	-1	1,146	-4	660	-14	1,025	-7
1957.....	11,905	+1	15,341	+6	1,118	-2	566	-14	963	-6

1/ 9 provinces, excludes Saarland and West Berlin.

PERU DEVELOPS MEAT INDUSTRY

Lima, Peru, has received a trial shipment of beef from the jungle area of Peru. About 8,000 pounds of beef was air-shipped to the Peruvian capital from a U. S. -Peruvian demonstration farm near Pucallpa, at the head of the Amazon. If this shipment is commercially profitable it will encourage development of the eastern part of the country. Beef supplies are short in the Lima area, and shipments from Argentina continue to be necessary.

NETHERLANDS TRANSSHIPMENTS OF WOOL TO U.S.S.R.
AND EASTERN EUROPE UP IN 1957

Transshipments of wool through the Netherlands to the U.S.S.R. and Eastern Europe during January-November 1957 totaled 25.8 million pounds, against 24.4 million in all of 1956. Reexports to other countries--mainly Western European--in these periods were 70.7 and 58.0 million pounds, respectively.

Most of this wool was originally shipped from Uruguay and Argentina. Almost half of the reexports of Uruguayan wool in 1956 and 1957 were destined for the Soviet Union and Poland. In 1957, this trade increased significantly with the U.S.S.R. but declined sharply with Poland. No transshipments of Argentine wool to the Soviet Union or Eastern Europe were recorded in 1956, but in 1957 they totaled 4.4 million pounds.

Shipments from the United States to the Soviet Union and Poland via the Netherlands totaled 1.6 million pounds in 1956 and 0.3 million in January-November 1957. It is assumed that this was mohair, as U.S. Census data does not show any exports of U.S. wool to the Netherlands in these two years.

NETHERLANDS: Transshipments of wool, fine hair, wastes and artificial wool from Uruguay and Argentina, annual 1956, January-November 1957.

Country of destination	Uruguay		Argentina		Total	
	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957
	- - - - - Million pounds - - - - -					
Belgium and Luxembourg.....	3.0	1.7	9.4	6.7	12.4	8.4
United Kingdom.....	13.5	8.8	4.7	6.3	18.2	15.1
Germany, West.....	1.5	.9	1.0	.4	2.5	1.3
United States.....	--	--	4.8	2.8	4.8	2.8
U.S.S.R.....	11.4	17.1	---	3.4	11.4	20.5
Poland.....	7.7	1.8	---	---	7.7	1.8
Other.....	8.3	8.7	1.8	1.9	10.1	10.6
Total.....	45.4	39.0	21.7	21.5	67.1	60.5

NEW ZEALAND MEAT
PRODUCTION DROPS

New Zealand meat production from September 1956 to October 1957 dropped slightly from the same period a year earlier.

The decrease was due to a sharp reduction in lamb and sheep slaughter. Good weather and high prices have encouraged New Zealand lamb and sheep producers to enlarge their flocks by holding animals back from slaughter. The number of breeding ewes on farms on June 30, 1957, was 28,921,000, an increase of 7 percent over the 26,923,000 breeding ewes a year earlier. A rise in lamb production has accompanied this increase. Lamb numbers on October 31, 1957, at 28,047,000 head, were 10 percent above numbers on the same date in 1956. This indicates a record lamb and sheep slaughter this year.

With an expected increase in lamb and sheep slaughter in the United Kingdom, and with large lamb and mutton exports from Australia, New Zealand producers may face a sharp drop in prices on the U. K. market (see Foreign Crops and Markets, March 3, 1958), and New Zealand is expected to look for new markets.

As cattle slaughter during 1956-57 rose 5 percent over 1955-56, New Zealand is also trying to develop new export markets for beef, especially in the United States and Japan. Frozen boneless beef found a ready U. S. market in 1957. New Zealand exports of meat to the United States in 1958 are expected to continue at a high level (see Foreign Crops and Markets, December 11, 1957).

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER: New Zealand, October-September 1952-53 to
1956-57, with percent change from previous year

Year (Oct.- Sept.)	Cattle		Calves		Sheep		Lambs		Hogs	
	Number	Change	Number	Change	Number	Change	Number	Change	Number	Change
	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent	1,000	Percent
1952-53:	652:	-12	1,236:	-6	5,641:	-5	12,300:	-1	740:	+8
1953-54:	780:	+20	1,326:	+7	5,475:	-3	13,324:	+8	760:	+3
1954-55:	900:	+15	1,435:	+8	5,742:	+5	13,992:	+5	778:	+2
1955-56:	1,000:	+11	1,406:	-2	5,894:	+3	14,807:	+6	816:	+5
1956-57 ^{1/}	1,046:	+5	1,405:	-	5,218:	-11	14,302:	-3	749:	-8

Source: New Zealand Department of Agriculture and FAS Reports.

^{1/} Partially estimated.

AUSTRALIAN MEAT AND LIVESTOCK EXPORTS UP

Australian exports of meat and livestock, except pork and hogs, rose sharply in 1957 (see Foreign Crops and Markets, September 9, 1957), largely due to the drought in Australia's major range areas. As there were record numbers of sheep and cattle, Australia's livestock industry was particularly vulnerable. Large numbers of livestock were slaughtered to preserve feed.

Fresh and frozen beef exports increased 17 percent over 1956. As usual, the United Kingdom was the major importer of Australian beef and veal, taking over 270 million pounds, or 80 percent of Australia's exports. Shipments to Japan, a new and rapidly growing Australian market, rose from 7.6 million pounds in 1956 to over 16 million in 1957. About 6 million pounds of beef and veal went to the United States in 1957. Most of this was frozen boneless beef for manufacturing, the U. S. price of which rose sharply in 1957.

Fresh and frozen mutton and lamb exports increased 18 percent in 1957. U. K. imports of 56 million pounds were the most important; Canada came next with 3 million pounds. The United States took about 1 million pounds.

After a long downward trend, canned meat exports in 1957 rose 15 percent over 1956. Canned meat output was up sharply in 1957 as large supplies of canner stock came to markets from dry pastures. U. K. imports of Australian canned meat, at 106 million pounds, made up 81 percent of Australia's 1957 exports. New Guinea was second with 8.5 million pounds. Canada took almost 8 million pounds, the United States less than 36,000 pounds.

MEAT: Australian exports, product weight basis, 1953-57, with percentage change from previous year

Year	Frozen and Fresh						Canned meat	
	Beef and Veal		Mutton and Lamb		Pork			
	Million pounds	Percent change	Million pounds	Percent change	Million pounds	Percent change	Million pounds	Percent change
1953.....	341.0	+37	142.9	+48	3.5	+35	149.6	-41
1954.....	255.0	-25	126.4	-12	5.6	+60	142.5	-5
1955.....	316.6	+24	131.0	+4	4.2	-25	134.8	-5
1956.....	291.6	-8	79.6	-39	2.6	-38	113.5	-16
1957.....	340.2	+17	94.2	+18	2.4	-8	130.8	+15

Source: Australian Meat Board and Foreign Agriculture Service Reports.

Australian livestock exports continued to increase in 1957. Over 22,400 head of cattle were exported during 1957, an 87 percent increase over 1956. The Philippines remained the most important market, taking 80 percent of exports in 1957.

About 117,000 sheep were exported during 1957, a 2-percent increase over 1956. Singapore and the Federation of Malaya took over 98 percent of these.

Exports of livestock on the hoof to nearby southeast Asian countries are becoming important to the livestock industry of Northern Australia. These exports are not covered by the 15-year Anglo-Australian Meat Agreement which limits Australian exports of fresh meat to countries other than the United Kingdom. In addition, many of the animals are exported in small, shallow-draft ships, often converted landing craft, which can use the shallow ports of Northern Australia. Large ships, fitted to carry frozen or chilled meat, are at a disadvantage along the northern coast of Australia (see Foreign Crops and Markets, December 30, 1957).

SOUTH AFRICA SHIPPING MORE WOOL TO U.S.S.R.

Shipments of wool from the Union of South Africa to the U.S.S.R. during July-November 1957 increased fivefold compared with a year earlier. Exports to Italy were up slightly, but shipments to all other major destinations declined substantially.

Exports of grease wool from the Union during the first 5 months of the 1957-58 selling season totaled 66 million pounds. This was about 15 million pounds below exports in the same period of the previous season.

Grease wool exports to main destinations in 1956 and 1957 were:

Country of destination	July-November	
	1956	1957
	<u>1,000 pounds</u>	
France	18,882	13,665
United Kingdom	18,933	13,417
Germany	14,370	11,008
Soviet Union	2,061	10,222
Italy	6,652	7,199
United States	4,485	3,259
Belgium	4,406	3,060
Japan	7,589	1,369

EAST GERMAN CATTLE NUMBERS STABLE

Cattle numbers in East Germany on September 1957 were about 1 percent above the same month in 1956. East German cattle numbers had been dropping steadily for several years. In January 1957 the Communist government adjusted prices of livestock products to make cattle raising more attractive (see Foreign Crops and Markets, February 25, 1957).

Hog numbers also rose slightly, but a 6-percent drop in sow numbers indicates a decline in hog production during 1958. Sheep numbers rose over 11 percent, continuing a trend of several years.

BRITAIN AGAIN INCREASES IMPORTS OF U. S. FARM PRODUCTS

U. K. imports of U. S. farm products increased, in dollar equivalent, by some \$90 million in 1957, to reach a total of nearly \$600 million. The U. S. share in total U. K. agricultural imports also rose--from 9 percent in 1956 to 10 percent in 1957.

Cotton (including linters and waste) accounted for nearly all of the \$90-million increase; at the low level of \$88 million in 1956, imports from the United States came to \$175 million in 1957. Tobacco increased by about \$15 million, and oilseeds by nearly \$7 million. But fruits and vegetables from the United States dropped by almost \$14 million, and grains by some \$6 million. These 5 products or groups of products made up 85 percent of the value of all agricultural imports from the United States in 1957.

WOOL CONSUMPTION UP SLIGHTLY IN 1957

The world's textile industry used an estimated 2,885 million pounds of raw wool, clean basis, in 1957. Although this was less than 1 percent above 1956, it marked the third successive year of increase. However, in several countries the sharply increased consumption trend of 1956 was halted, and in the latter half of 1957 consumption declined rapidly.

Consumption for the fourth quarter of 1957 in the 11 countries reporting to the International Wool Study Group was lower than in the previous quarter and 10 percent below the same quarter of 1956.

Consumption of other materials (such as noils, waste, reused wool, artificial fibres, cotton, and silk,) in the wool textile industries of the principal reporting countries was 5 percent higher in 1957. Consumption of these materials also declined during the last half of the year, but not as rapidly as raw wool.

WOOL: Estimated world consumption of raw wool,
clean basis, annual 1954-57

Country	1954	1955	1956 <u>1</u> /	1957 <u>2</u> /	Percent change
	- - - - - Million pounds - - - - -				
United Kingdom.....	462	475	475	481	+1
United States <u>3</u> /.....	393	422	449	380	-15
France.....	256	246	277	297	+7
Germany, West.....	152	168	176	(183)	(+4)
Japan.....	110	127	171	186	+9
Italy.....	119	113	124	157	+27
Belgium.....	63	65	78	77	-1
Australia.....	56	56	65	(70)	(+8)
Netherlands.....	25	26	28	26	-7
Canada <u>4</u> /.....	18	21	21	21	--
Sweden.....	12	12	11	11	--
Total.....	1,666	1,731	1,875	1,889	+1
Soviet Union, Eastern					
Europe, and Communist China..	(499)	(491)	(560)	(565)	+1
Others.....	433	439	462	465	+1
Total <u>5</u> /.....	2,561	2,620	2,853	2,885	+1

1/ Revised.

2/ Provisional. Figures in parentheses are CEC estimates.

3/ Scoured basis.

4/ Excluding consumption in hosiery industry.

5/ Includes estimates of consumption in U.S. on clean basis and in Canadian hosiery industry.

Source: Commonwealth Economic Committee and International Wool Textile Organization.

U. S. DRY PEAS SOLD IN EUROPE

Trade sources report a purchase of about 140,000 bags of U. S. Alaska peas by European buyers who will sell them for canning in the United Kingdom and on the Continent. U. S. dry peas are reported to be popular for canning because the seed coats remain intact through the canning process. Dutch-produced peas this year are said to be carrying about 3 percent wastage in canning. The soaking and canning of dry peas has long been practiced in Europe.

ARGENTINE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS MAY BE LESS FAVORABLE FOR 1958

Adverse weather, limited planting, and livestock pasturing sharply reduced Argentina's 1957-58 harvests of wheat and other cereals, except corn, below those of last year, as well as below the average of the past 5 years.

Reductions may be partly offset by an excellent corn crop. Also, many farmers who lost their wheat crop plowed their fields and planted millet and sorghum. This is the first year sorghum has been sown in quantity. But the outlook for total agricultural production and exports is still somewhat less favorable for 1958 than for last year.

There were unexpected changes in the Argentine crop outlook in January. Torrential rains early in the month damaged the linseed crop and lowered expected production to about 23.8 million bushels in spite of the largest planted acreage in a decade. Production last year was 24.4 million bushels. Wheat production for the recent harvest is estimated at approximately 210.0 million bushels, compared with 260.9 million last year. Production of oats, rye and barley has also been adversely affected by weather, heavy pasturing, and a reduction in area planted.

Heavy insect damage is reported in the sunflower and cotton crops.

The corn crop still appears to be very good, with an expected harvest of over 200 million bushels, compared with the unusually low harvest of 106.2 million last year.

Pasture and livestock conditions are good. Forage is plentiful and livestock fat.

ARGENTINA INCREASES RICE ACREAGE

The planted rice acreage of Argentina in 1957-58 is estimated at 160,000 acres. This is 23,000 acres more than in the year before, and is the largest in 3 years. The record planted acreage was 176,000 acres in 1953-54. The crop is planted from September to November and harvested in March and April.

Weather has been favorable and the present crop condition is promising. Last year's (1956-57) crop of 371.5 million pounds of rough rice was produced from planted acreage of 137,000 acres and harvested acreage of 126,000 acres. With good yields forecast, Argentina this year should harvest between 400 million pounds and 420 million pounds of rough rice. The record production was 468 million pounds in 1953-54.

AUSTRALIA WILL HAVE GOOD RICE CROP

Australian rice production in 1957-58 is expected to be well above that of 1956-57. Though acreage sown was 25 percent less, good yields are expected, in contrast with very low yields the preceding year.

The 1957-58 rice crop is forecast at 190 million pounds of rough rice, compared with 178.9 million pounds in 1956-57. Dry winter and spring weather permitted growers to sow under ideal conditions. Stands are reported to be strong and weed free, and insect damage is considerably lighter than last year.

Australian commercial rice production will largely be confined to the Murrumbidgee and Murray irrigation areas, the usual rice areas. Production in the Humpty Doo area has been reduced because of a reorganization within the Northern Territory Rice Ltd. The area sown there was 170 acres, and the crop was intended to maintain viable seeds for the future. At the new rice-growing project at Liveringina Station in Western Australia, flood waters destroyed the new Fitzroy River dam, which was to control water for the project. Production in Queensland is still experimental and negligible.

Australia's acreage sown to rice in 1957-58, therefore, is about normal and is now estimated at 40,000 acres. The 1957 acreage was 52,786 acres, which was above average because of supplementary rice acreages allowed by water-control officials to offset reductions expected in flood areas.

RICE: Australia, acreage and production, 1950-51 to 1957-58

Year	Acreage	Yield per acre	Production (rough rice)
	<u>1,000 acres</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Million pounds</u>
1950-51.....	37	4,673	172.9
1951-52.....	36	3,556	128.0
1952-53.....	34	4,897	166.5
1953-54.....	39	4,382	170.9
1954-55.....	39	5,472	213.4
Average.....	37	4,603	170.3
1955-56.....	41	4,841	198.5
1956-57 <u>1/</u>	53	3,375	178.9
1957-58 <u>2/</u>	40	4,750	190.0

1/ Subject to revision. 2/ Preliminary.

Source: New South Wales Bureau of Census and Statistics.

ITALY'S WHEAT PROSPECTS GOOD

Weather conditions in Italy have been good-to-excellent and the early outlook is for another large wheat crop in 1958. Wheat harvests of the past 3 years have been above 300 million bushels. If weather continues favorable, the 1958 crop may exceed the record 1955 harvest of 349 million bushels.

Emphasis is on increased seeding of durum wheats, which would cut the country's import requirements. Some sources predict that 1958 durum acreage in Southern Italy will be 20 percent more than 1957 acreage. Only hard wheats are to be imported this year, as there is no shortage of soft wheat. Larger supplies of hard wheat produced in 1957 have reduced import requirements for this type.

CUBA TAKES SEVERAL
AGRICULTURAL MEASURES

Cuba's sugar grinding season began about a month early this year, bringing a sharp upturn of employment in January. At that time the Cuban Government limited the 1958 sugar output to 6,250,000 short tons. Also in January, the U.S.S.R. bought 100,000 Spanish long tons (115,000 short tons) of Cuban sugar for February-April delivery.

The government has stipulated that, as last year, only the Cuban Stabilization Institute can buy molasses from the current season's output. There will probably be about 270 million gallons of blackstrap molasses and 100 million gallons of high-test molasses. None of the latter was produced in 1957.

To help stabilize rice prices, the basic low-duty import quota has been increased by 507,050 bags (100 pounds each) for the period ending June 30, 1958. The total authorized low-duty quota is now 3,805,550.

On January 10 the government authorized importation of 200,000 Spanish quintals (362,000 bushels) of U.S. shelled corn free of import duties and all taxes. This is the second authorization this year for duty-free imports of corn to relieve the corn shortage. These authorizations total 400,000 quintals (724,000 bushels).

Unusually heavy January rains and winds hurt Cuban tobacco and winter vegetable crops, but growers in general were better off than last year due to premium export prices for vegetables, resulting from the Florida freeze.

ARGENTINE GRAIN EXPORTS
DOWN 11 PERCENT

Argentine bread and coarse grain exports during the 7 months ending January 31, 1958, totaled 2,569,800 metric tons, compared with 2,889,000 tons in the same period a year ago--an overall reduction of 11 percent. Lower exports of corn and wheat account for most of the reduction.

GRAIN: Argentine exports, July-January 1956-57 and 1957-58

Country of Destination	Wheat	Rye	Corn	Oats	Barley	Total
- Metric tons -						
July-January 1956-57:						
United States	---	---	---	5,559:	---	5,559
Peru	63,910:	---	---	---	---	63,910
Chile	98,560:	---	---	---	---	98,560
Brazil	673,753:	---	---	3,992:	---	677,745
Paraguay	15,988:	---	---	---	---	15,988
Uruguay	---	---	---	---	5,657:	5,657
Norway	---	4,000:	---	---	---	4,000
Denmark	1,500:	5,750:	3,313:	2,100:	---	13,163
United Kingdom	81,539:	---	133,558:	7,005:	13,600:	235,702
Netherlands	49,140:	26,518:	148,866:	32,681:	74,469:	331,674
Belgium-Luxembourg:	20,043:	14,268:	138,563:	3,550:	8,582:	185,006
France	22,369:	---	125,253:	14:	---	147,636
Germany, West	70,034:	15,295:	150,728:	52,630:	205,491:	494,178
Austria	---	---	5,500:	388:	---	5,888
Czechoslovakia	---	---	---	---	2,000:	2,000
Switzerland	5,638:	4,516:	19,174:	2,255:	3,045:	34,628
Finland	---	22,250:	6,200:	---	---	28,450
Italy	288,806:	30,728:	117,230:	36,546:	6,989:	480,299
Yugoslavia	---	---	---	---	378:	378
Japan	---	---	58,727:	---	---	58,727
Total	1,391,280:	123,325:	907,612:	146,720:	320,211:	2,839,148
July-January 1957-58:						
Peru	47,815:	---	6,000:	---	---	53,815
Chile	194,494:	---	75:	---	---	194,569
Brazil	391,287:	---	---	3,331:	252:	394,870
Paraguay	34,000:	---	---	---	---	34,000
Sweden	300:	6,100:	100:	1,996:	---	8,496
Norway	1,000:	3,675:	---	---	---	4,675
United Kingdom	161,533:	899:	3,433:	15,408:	1,030:	182,303
Denmark	12,692:	2,400:	2,200:	22,256:	---	39,548
Netherlands	44,338:	37,789:	129,216:	48,862:	38,808:	299,013
Belgium-Luxembourg:	53,444:	11,741:	143,785:	16,231:	21,651:	246,852
France	12,300:	---	4,085:	510:	1,490:	18,385
Germany, West	211,250:	48,141:	62,181:	59,950:	179,877:	561,399
Austria	550:	2,000:	1,910:	450:	930:	5,840
Switzerland	13,000:	2,000:	10,975:	30,313:	2,421:	53,709
Finland	---	21,515:	---	800:	---	22,315
Spain	4,800:	---	---	---	---	4,800
Italy	68,834:	34,251:	192,856:	55,250:	43,223:	394,414
Yugoslavia	1,000:	---	---	2,990:	8,295:	12,285
Japan	---	---	5,707:	---	---	5,707
North Africa	9,385:	---	500:	---	---	9,385
South Africa	16,660:	---	---	---	1,250:	17,910
Total	1,278,682:	170,511:	563,023:	258,347:	299,227:	2,569,790

THAILAND'S RICE CROP REDUCED 10 PERCENT

Thailand's 1957-58 rice crop is now believed to be at least 10 percent that of 1956-57, according to trade sources. The harvest, based on this estimate, would be 16,500 million pounds of rough rice, compared with 18,340 million pounds in 1956-57. Lack of rainfall early in the season caused a reduction in acreage.

The exportable surplus of rice in 1958 is forecast at 1.2 million metric tons of milled rice by the Ministry of Economic Affairs. This is the same as several months ago. Until recently, the 1957-58 rice crop was reported in Thailand at between 15 and 25 percent below 1956-57 output.

Though rice exports have not been subject to export quotas since January 1, export permits continued to be required. Permits for exports of 200,000 tons were issued for January, and actual exports during the month totaled approximately 180,000 tons.

If exports continue at this high rate, export quotas are expected to be reimposed in order to protect domestic prices. It has been indicated that permits in February will be issued for only 65,000 tons.

Postwar record exports of rice from Thailand in 1957 amounted to 1,567,000 metric tons, compared with 1,239,000 metric tons in 1956. Exports were only slightly larger than previous record postwar exports in 1951. Thailand's largest prewar rice exports were 1,850,000 tons in 1934.

YUGOSLAVIA ACTS TO STIMULATE HEMP FIBER EXPORTS

Yugoslavia has for the second time this marketing year set a new exchange rate to encourage hemp fiber exports. Effective January 30, the old rate of 632 dinars to the dollar was increased to 758.4. It applies only to hemp fiber and tow. The change in rate lowers the export price of hemp one-sixth.

Yugoslavia plans to continue expansion of its hemp industry and must maintain exports. It had a large hemp crop last year, but world demand declined. Production in 1957 was about 117 million pounds, compared with 82 million in 1956 and a 97-million average from 1947-56 (estimated at 17 percent of dry, unretted stalks).

Exports of scutched fiber and tow dropped from 28 million pounds in 1954 to 24 million in 1955 and 23 million in 1956. Exports in January-September 1957 were 10.5 million pounds. Yugoslavia ranks second to the U.S.S.R. as a hemp producer, and is second to Italy as an exporter of hemp fiber. Italy was second in both production and exports until 1954, when its crop was reduced about 40 percent.

NEW ZEALAND HAS SLIGHTLY
LARGER WHEAT CROP

New Zealand's 1957-58 wheat crop, now being harvested, is expected to be a little larger than the 2.7 million bushels of a year ago. A steady decline in wheat acreage has resulted in larger import requirements. Acreage last season was the smallest on record, and New Zealand imported about 10 million bushels of wheat from Australia.

The Dwindling crop and increased import needs are draining the country's overseas funds, so a higher price is to be paid for next year's crop. If the price is high enough to encourage domestic production import requirements should be reduced. The Wheat Committee, sole buyer of wheat, has been assured that its 1958 import needs will be filled by Australia, despite that country's short supply this season.

FRENCH WEST AFRICAN PEANUT
PRODUCTION UP IN 1957-58

Commercial peanut production in French West Africa from the 1957-58 crop is estimated at 1,150,000 short tons, unshelled. This is a slight decrease from earlier forecasts (See Foreign Crops and Markets, October 28, 1957), but is more than 10 percent above the 1,014,000 tons produced commercially in 1956-57. Estimated production by various territories is as follows:

<u>Territory</u>	<u>Production in short tons, unshelled</u>
Senegal	830,000
Niger	165,000
Soudan	110,000
Others	45,000
Total	1,150,000

French import requirements and the quantities needed for peanut oil in French Africa will account for around 950,000 tons. It is possible, therefore, that 135,000 to 175,000 tons will be sold on the world market, with a subsidy paid to exporters from the peanut stabilization fund. Some French West African peanuts also are moving into Gambia, Portuguese Guinea, and Nigeria, a result of low prices of consumer goods in these areas, devaluation of the franc, and overproduction in French West Africa. For this reason, total purchases will not truly reflect the commercial production.

Government officials are concerned over expanding peanut acreages and a relative decrease in acreages of food crops. However, farmers have found that peanuts are their most profitable crop. Thus, the practices of growing and plowing under green manure crops and rotating crops are being neglected, and agricultural officials fear that peanut yields per acre will decline in coming years.

ARGENTINA PLANS ON BUMPER HOPS CROP THIS YEAR

Argentina's 1957-58 hops crop, harvested in February-March, is expected to reach 270,000 pounds, compared with 192,000 pounds last season.

The crop is said to be in excellent condition despite some damage by red spider (*Tetranychus telarius* L.) on farms that did not spray properly. However, over 90 percent of hops producers keep this pest under control by using "Metasystox," a systemic phosphorus insecticide.

The Argentine hops industry hopes to make the country self-sufficient in hops by 1960-61. With increases of 38 percent in area and 41 percent in production in 1957-58 over 1956-57, it has a good start. Heretofore, Argentina has had to import over 80 percent of its annual requirements of 450 to 500 metric tons (992,000 to 1,102,000 pounds). Because of the larger 1957-58 crop, 1958 imports are expected to decline to a little over 70 percent of requirements. The country wants to become self-sufficient in hops primarily to save foreign exchange, especially dollars, that it would otherwise spend for imports.

During the 5-year period immediately after World War II, the United States was by far the most important foreign source of supply, but U.S. imports later were either discontinued or greatly cut to conserve dollar exchange. West Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia became the major foreign suppliers.

Of the 586,100 pounds of hops imported from January 1 to November 30, 1957, 309,900 pounds, or 53 percent, came from the United States. The balance of 47 percent came from West Germany (254,900 pounds) and from Yugoslavia (21,300 pounds), although during this period the price of German and Yugoslav hops was over 50 percent higher than that of U. S. hops. Argentina imported German and Yugoslav hops rather than U. S. hops because the latter had to be paid for in dollars while those from Europe could be bought under agreements giving Argentina special savings in hard currencies.

Argentina's main hops-producing areas are two localities in the Province of Buenos Aires and one in the Province of Cipolletti. Hops-growing on an experimental basis was begun in the Provinces of Santa Fe in 1955, Mendoza and Neuquen in 1956, and Entre Rios and Chubut in 1957. Results on some of the experimental areas are said to be good.

Increased production in the last two years is also due in part to higher producer prices for hops. The price increased from 31.5 pesos per kg. (\$.38 per pound) in 1954-55 to 57 pesos per kg. (\$.68 per pound) in 1955-56, and to 90 pesos per kg. (\$1.08 per pound) in 1956-57 (converted at the free market rate). Quotations on the new crop will not be available until bulk sales begin after March 1.

HOPS: Argentina, area and production, 1953-54 through 1957-58

Year <u>1</u> /	:	Area	:	Production
	:	<u>Acres</u>	:	<u>1,000 pounds</u>
1953-54.....	:	361	:	176
1954-55.....	:	316	:	174
1955-56.....	:	326	:	176
1956-57.....	:	346	:	192
1957-58.....	:	479	:	2/ 270

1/ September-August. 2/ Unofficial estimate.

GAMBIA'S PEANUT OUTPUT LARGE

Peanut purchases for export from 1957-58 production in Gambia (British West Africa) are expected to approximate 100,000 short tons, unshelled basis, compared with purchases of 80,865 tons in the 1956-57 season. As of mid-February 1958, purchases exceeded 84,000 tons.

Peanuts are moving into Gambia in substantial volume, and final quantities purchased by the Gambia Oilseeds Marketing Board, including peanuts from Senegal, may exceed 100,000 tons. Main reasons given for this movement are overproduction in French West Africa, devaluation of the French franc, and relatively low prices of consumer goods within Gambia.

PORTUGUESE GUINEA'S 1957-58 PEANUT CROP
EXPECTED TO EXCEED LAST SEASON'S

Peanut purchases for export from the 1957-58 crop in Portuguese Guinea are now forecast at 50,000 short tons, unshelled basis. The 44,000 tons of peanuts exported during calendar 1957 is believed to be a fair estimate of 1956-57 commercial production. With peanuts moving into Portuguese Guinea from French West Africa, exports during the 1957-58 season might be well above 50,000 tons. The movement of peanuts from French West Africa is due mainly to overproduction in that country, the devaluation of the French franc, and the relatively low prices of consumer goods in Portuguese Guinea.

Portuguese Guinea is trying to increase per-unit yields of peanuts, and thereby raise the standard of living of the peanut farmer. The government has decided to replace within the next 5 years all peanut plantings with the 28206 selection from the Bambey Research Station in Senegal and, in addition, to establish a new agricultural research station near Canambri to work on soil fertility and farm management problems.

The seed replacement alone is expected to increase total production 15 to 20 percent over the next 5 years.

DANISH BUTTER PRICE AT 10-YEAR LOW

On February 13, the wholesale price of Danish butter was reduced from 36.1 to 29.6 cents per pound. This is the lowest price since 1948, when dairies received 29.3 cents per pound.

The price reduction was postponed for several months in the hope that the export price would improve. During this period the dairies were compensated for the low export price through the Danish dairy industry butter pool fund. The recent price reduction came when the fund was depleted.

The Danish dairy industry is now campaigning to increase domestic demand for dairy products. With decreased marketings abroad and low export prices, the Danes hope to reduce the export surplus through increased domestic marketings.

AUSTRALIAN WHALE OIL OUTPUT AT RECORD LEVEL IN 1957

Australia produced a record 19,214 short tons of whale oil in 1957. In 1956, production was 19,096 tons. The yield of oil per whale caught was also a new record of 9.8 tons compared to 9.6 in 1956. Whale meal production in 1957 totaled 9,200 tons.

MALAYAN COPRA EXPORTS IN 1957 UP SHARPLY, COCONUT OIL DOWN

Malayan exports of copra in 1957 totaled 121,487 long tons, 3 times those of 1956 and the highest since 1950. Coconut oil exports of 101,177 long tons, on the other hand, were down 3 percent from 1956 tonnage. Shipments of copra to Asia were nearly 5 times those of 1956. The largest buyer was India, which took nearly 4 times as much copra as in 1956.

Coconut oil shipments to Europe in 1957 were down nearly one-third from the previous year, while shipments to Asia, principally Burma, were double those of 1956. Exports to the Soviet Union, a market for over 9,000 tons in 1956, increased to almost 15,000 tons in 1957.

Imports of copra into Malaya in 1957, largely from Indonesia, amounted to 188,346 long tons, an increase of over one-half from 1956 and the largest tonnage imported since World War II. Net exports in 1957 of copra and coconut oil, oil basis, were about 58,000 tons, compared with about 51,000 tons in 1956.

COPRA AND COCONUT OIL: Malaya, exports and imports, average 1938-39, annual 1955-57

Country	Copra				Coconut oil			
	Average : 1938-39 :	1955 :	1956 1/ :	1957 1/ :	Average : 1938-39 :	1955 :	1956 1/ :	1957 1/ :
	Long tons:	Long tons:	Long tons:	Long tons:	Long tons:	Long tons:	Long tons:	Long tons:
Exports:								
North America.....	---	---	850:	3,820:	950:	---	73:	440
South America.....	---	---	---	---	10:	8:	---	---
Europe:								
Denmark.....	2,050:	2,600:	1,645:	1,000:	12:	---	---	---
France.....	8,578:	1,948:	680:	---	100:	1,938:	1,442:	1,509
Germany, West.....2/	46,384:	3,898:	1,450:	---	2/ 50:	8,971:	11,388:	8,013
Italy.....	11,322:	150:	950:	---	10:	10,049:	9,567:	14,756
Netherlands.....	28,956:	12,695:	4,100:	11,678:	822:	10,663:	24,145:	5,001
Norway.....	4,703:	1,375:	525:	---	50:	---	5:	---
Poland.....	3,358:	---	1,900:	400:	---	---	---	926
Spain.....	---	9,917:	4,200:	200:	---	---	---	---
Sweden.....	1,850:	1,600:	404:	---	92:	2,007:	3,003:	834
United Kingdom.....	52,710:	---	---	---	12,617:	15,343:	14,907:	3,933
Other.....	3,314:	3/ 1,800:	4/ 1,350:	5/ 6,589:	80:	6/ 1,134:	7/ 11,796:	8/ 17,966
Total.....	163,225:	35,983:	17,204:	19,867:	13,833:	50,105:	76,253:	52,938
Africa:								
Egypt.....	5,805:	---	---	---	4,604:	926:	1,815:	257
Morocco.....	2/ 246:	9/ 263:	9/ 200:	---	2/ 2:	---	---	1,165
Union of South Africa	---	100:	50:	---	325:	2,676:	5,752:	4,575
Other.....	---	---	---	---	604:	350:	948:	1,821
Total.....	6,051:	363:	250:	---	5,535:	3,952:	8,515:	7,818
Asia:								
Burma.....	---	172:	1,126:	1,873:	3,908:	6,481:	4,945:	19,952
China.....	127:	---	---	7,403:	2,028:	14,974:	500:	6,484
Formosa.....	---	---	437:	---	---	787:	299:	1,201
Hong Kong.....	---	---	---	2:	1,391:	1,434:	1,425:	3,068
India.....	268:	1,247:	18,210:	68,320:	22,551:	11,559:	10,090:	6,660
Indonesia.....	1:	---	4:	2:	3,130:	231:	235:	241
Japan.....	160:	---	---	16,933:	---	---	---	---
Pakistan.....	---	---	---	13:	---	867:	342:	627
Other.....	2,018:	4,654:	1,252:	3,254:	1,584:	1,428:	1,605:	1,747
Total.....	2,574:	6,073:	21,029:	97,800:	34,592:	37,761:	19,441:	39,980
Oceania.....	---	---	---	---	751:	---	2:	1
Grand total.....	171,850:	42,419:	39,333:	121,487:10/	55,700:	91,826:	104,284:	101,177
Imports:								
British Possessions...	11,088:	1,966:	4,078:	8,849:	1:	561:	1,145:	1,118
Indonesia.....	108,591:	113,577:	116,875:	178,476:	209:	90:	8:	29
Other.....	584:	1,952:	928:	1,021:	240:	---	---	---
Grand total.....	120,263:	117,495:	121,881:	188,346:	450:	651:	1,153:	1,147

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Total Germany.

3/ All to Finland.

4/ 1,000 tons to Finland, 250 tons to Czechoslovakia and 100 tons to Belgium.

5/ All to Belgium.

6/ Includes 595 tons to Yugoslavia.

7/ Includes 9,400 tons to U.S.S.R. and 1,572 tons to Yugoslavia.

8/ Includes 14,908 tons to U.S.S.R. and 2,566 tons to Yugoslavia.

9/ Territory formerly known as French Morocco.

10/ Includes 29 tons to "other countries."

FINNISH DAIRY AND POULTRY EXPORT SUBSIDIES CONTINUE HIGH

Export subsidies paid by the Finnish Government for dairy and poultry products in 1957, totaled \$39.4 million, compared with \$18.3 million in 1956. The domestic consumer subsidy, already included in the wholesale price of butter, amounted to an additional \$8.8 million on butter exported.

Finland exported 55.6 million pounds of butter in 1957 under export subsidy of \$28.1 million. Cheese exports were 29.5 million pounds and accounted for subsidy of \$8.1 million. Exports also included 5.5 million pounds of milk powder with a subsidy of \$1.3 million, and 9.9 million pounds of eggs subsidized at \$1.9 million.

While cheese exports in 1957 increased less than 10 percent over 1956 exports, butter and eggs exports more than doubled. The total subsidy on butter exports this year probably will be lower than last year, as higher prices and restrictions on imported feed concentrates are discouraging surplus production of butter.

GUATEMALA SETS NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPORTED PROCESSED MILK

Guatemala has issued new regulations, effective February 1, covering imported dry whole, nonfat dry, condensed, and evaporated milks. The only exemption is milk imported for nonprofit distribution. Some of the new requirements call for changes in packing and labeling of processed milk products shipped to Guatemala:

Dry whole, semiskimmed, and nonfat dry milks for human consumption must be hermetically sealed in tin plate or aluminum containers having a maximum capacity of 5 pounds.

Instant nonfat dry milk may be packed in hermetically sealed, tin plate or aluminum containers, or cardboard boxes meeting certain requirements. Maximum weight for these containers is 1 pound.

Dry whole milk for industrial purposes (e.g. bakery, confectionary) must be packaged in hermetically sealed, tin plate containers having a maximum capacity of 25 pounds.

Condensed and evaporated milks must be packed in hermetically sealed tin plate containers having a maximum capacity of 500 c.c.

Labeling requirements for each type of milk are listed separately. The new regulation requires that a number assigned by the Director of Public Health and the name of the importer appear on the container. The date on which the container was filled must also appear, since all of the above products must be sold within 2 years.

BELGIAN IMPORTS OF U. S. COTTON
AT HIGH LEVEL

Imports of United States cotton into Belgium during the first 2 months (August-September) of the 1957-58 marketing season were 36,000 bales (500 pounds gross). This represented 53 percent of Belgium's total cotton imports, compared with 15,000 bales, or 25 percent of the total in the comparable period a year earlier.

Cotton imports from all sources in August-September 1957 were 68,000 bales, up 13 percent from exports of 60,000 bales a year earlier. Quantities imported from principal sources during August-September 1957, with comparable 1956 figures in parentheses, were: United States 36,000 bales (15,000); Mexico 10,000 (10,000); Peru 9,000 (11,000); Belgian Congo 7,000 (12,000); Nicaragua 1,000 (343); and Egypt 1,000 (463).

Imports during the August-July 1956-57 season totaled 515,000 bales, up 32 percent from the 389,000 bales imported during 1955-56. The U. S. share increased sharply to 289,000 bales, or 56 percent of total imports, compared with 44,000 bales, or 11 percent of the total in 1955-56.

Cotton consumption during August-October 1957 amounted to 113,000 bales, down slightly from the 115,000 bales consumed during the same months in 1956. Consumption of U. S. cotton was 66,000 bales, or 58 percent of total cotton consumed, up sharply from 14,000 bales, or 12 percent of the total in August-October 1956.

Cotton stocks held by spinning mills on October 31 were estimated at 142,000 bales, compared with 152,000 bales on August 1, 1957, and 88,000 bales on October 31, 1956. Stocks of U. S. cotton were 67,000 bales, or 47 percent of the total, compared with 19,000 bales, or 22 percent of the total a year earlier.

Belgium produced 16,083 metric tons of cotton yarn during August-September 1957, slightly less than the 16,966 metric tons produced during the same months in 1956. The August-September yarn production consisted of 15,324 metric tons of fine yarn and 759 metric tons of carded yarn.

Production of cotton fabrics during August-September 1957 amounted to 12,724 metric tons, down slightly from 12,990 metric tons produced in August-September 1956. Sales of cotton fabrics began to decline in late summer. The declining sales were attributed to higher retail prices due to an increase in the consumer tax on cotton goods from 1 percent to 11 percent. Also, textile distributors were not as anxious to buy cotton goods since they had larger stocks on hand.

The Ghent cotton market was weak during August-October 1957 compared with a year earlier. Buyers were hesitant, mainly because of large stocks at all levels and consumer resistance to higher retail prices.

EGYPT'S COTTON EXPORTS UP SHARPLY

Egypt's cotton exports during the first 4 months (August-November) of the 1957-58 marketing season were 353,000 bales (500 pounds gross). This is an increase of 86 percent from exports of 190,000 bales in the comparable 1956 period. The sharpest increase was in exports to the U.S.S.R. During August-November 1957, Communist countries received 49 percent of Egypt's total exports, compared with 40 percent in the 4-month period a year earlier.

Quantities exported to principal destinations during August-November 1957, with comparable 1956 figures in parentheses, were: U.S.S.R. 83,000 bales (5,000); France 42,000 (19,000); United States 28,000 (10,000); Czechoslovakia 26,000 (40,000); East Germany 20,000 (12,000); Italy 17,000 (23,000); Poland 16,000 (8,000); China 15,000 (1,000); Austria 13,000 (5,000); Switzerland 11,000 (16,000); Spain 9,000 (0); Yugoslavia 6,000 (2,000); Hungary 3,000 (2,000); Belgium 3,000 (2,000); West Germany 3,000 (9,000); and Rumania 3,000 (5,000).

Officially, the use of discounts, premiums on payments, and barter transactions to effect foreign cotton sales was discontinued on January 1, 1958. On February 11, 1958, the Egyptian pound was adopted as the sole basis of dealing in Egypt's foreign cotton trade in an effort to establish a more competitive and uniform price abroad for Egyptian cotton.

The final official estimate of 1957-58 cotton acreage was 1,888,000 acres. This is an increase of 10 percent from 1,715,000 acres in 1956-57, and slightly above the 1,885,000 acres in 1955-56.

The third official estimate of 1957-58 production is 1,817,000 bales. This is 22 percent above 1956-57 production of 1,492,000 bales, and 18 percent above the 1,535,000 bales produced in 1955-56. Most of the increase is in extra-long staple Menoufi cotton and long staples such as Ashmouni. Production of extra-long staple Karnak and medium-long staple Giza cottons is expected to decline. The larger 1957-58 crop is attributed largely to wider use of insecticides.

On December 29, 1957, specific areas of production were allocated for each Egyptian cotton variety in an effort to increase and maintain the purity of the different varieties. A variety must now be grown only in the area allocated to it.

Cotton stocks on November 30, 1957, were 1,755,000 bales, up 21 percent from 1,451,000 bales a year earlier.

Egypt's domestic cotton consumption has been increasing gradually for several years, and during August-November an estimated 144,000 bales were used. This is 6 percent above the 136,000 bales used in the same months of 1956.

Recently, Egypt has been using more of the extra-long staple varieties. Consumption of Giza cotton increased from 18,000 bales in August-November 1956 to 22,000 bales in August-November 1957. Consumption of Karnak and Menoufi was up from 7,000 bales to 15,000 bales. August-November 1957 consumption of Ashmouni cotton was 85,000 bales, or 59 percent of total consumption--a decline from last year's comparable figure of 91,000 bales, or 67 percent of the total.

Egyptian cotton prices have dropped sharply since January 1957. The downward trend has been constant, with the exception of short periods of slight recovery. The Alexandria spot quotation for Karnak FG on February 26, 1958, was 48.50 U. S. cents per pound, compared with 51.07 cents on January 29, and 76.03 cents per pound on January 2, 1957. These prices do not include the export and intermediate taxes of 4.73 cents per pound prior to August 31, 1957, and 7.99 cents per pound since that date. C.i.f. Europe quotations for Karnak FG were 45.63 U. S. cents per pound on February 27, 1958, 48.09 cents on January 30, and 83.38 cents per pound on January 24, 1957. The February 27 c.i.f. quotation of 45.65 cents per pound was more than 2 cents per pound below the previous week, and was the lowest since before the Korean War.

SUDAN PRODUCES LESS COTTON IN 1957-58

Sudan's 1957-58 cotton crop is estimated at 435,000 bales (500 pounds gross), based on recent figures of the Ministry of Agriculture. This is 29 percent less than the record of 617,000 bales in 1956-57. The 1957-58 acreage (748,000 acres) is down slightly from 1956-57 acreage (764,000 acres).

Production of extra-long staple Sakel-type varieties in 1957-58 is expected to be 370,000 bales--36 percent below the 582,000 bales produced in 1956-57. Acreage in this type is down 10 percent. Heavy insect damage accounted for most of the reduction.

The decrease in extra-long staple production is partly offset by increased production of American-type cotton, which is expected to be 65,000 bales--nearly double the 36,000 bales produced in 1956-57. Acreage of American-type was up from 167,000 acres in 1956-57 to 208,000 in 1957-58, mainly due to the good market for Sudanese shorter staple cotton in 1956-57. Aside from the increased acreage, production was favored by good weather in the Nuba Mountains area, which accounts for 75 percent of American-type cotton acreage.

Sales of Sudanese Sakel-type increased considerably during November and December 1957, following a series of reserve price reductions from those first announced on March 14, 1957. Lower prices were announced on May 31, August 22, November 2, and November 16. The overall reduction during this period ranged from 25 to 33 percent for the higher grades of Sakel and Lambert cottons. In addition, the export tax of 8.70 cents per pound was reduced on November 16, 1957, to 4.35 cents.

Another stimulus to market activity in late 1957 was the joint announcement by the Sudan Government and the Gezira Board, on November 16, that they did not intend to reduce the price again for 4 months, and that if prices were reduced because of unforeseen circumstances an equivalent rebate would be made on all sales on and after November 19, 1957, up to the date of the price change.

Unsold stocks of 1956-57 crop cotton were estimated at 200,000 bales on January 18, 1958, compared with 479,000 bales on August 1, 1957. Current stocks include only extra-long staple cotton, as all American-type cotton has already been sold.

Normally, nearly all of Sudan's cotton is exported; less than 5,000 bales are used annually for domestic consumption. Exports during August-December 1957 were 125,000 bales, down 38 percent from exports of 202,000 bales during the same months in 1956. The sharpest decline was in exports to the United Kingdom.

Principal destinations of Sudan's exports during August-December 1957, with comparable 1956 figures in parentheses, were: United Kingdom 44,000 bales (111,000); India 23,000 (26,000); France 15,000 (12,000); China 10,000 (4,000); West Germany 8,000 (16,000); Italy 8,000 (14,000); Ethiopia 3,000 (4,000); Czechoslovakia 3,000 (0); Hungary 2,000 (230); Japan 2,000 (5,000); and Belgium 2,000 (2,000). Exports during the August-July 1956-57 season were 333,000 bales, compared with 559,000 bales in 1955-56.
